



MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE



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TABLE OF CONTENT

I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE 2

- Changes in the MHE staff 2
- MHE invited to 2nd Equality Summit, Paris (France), 29-30 September 2008 2
- MHE represented at the Annual Conference for Psychiatry in Romania 3
- MHE chairs first meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform 3
- MHE participates in consultation meeting on "Care for health in the workplace – Psychosocial health and work" 4
- WMHD 2008: MHE issues statement on "Making Inclusion a European Reality – Promoting an Integrated Approach to the Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems" 4
- MHE's involvement in the 7th Round Table for combating poverty and social exclusion 5
- MHE's activities highlighted during Social Platform Steering Group meeting 6
- Reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter: Engage in the new round of reports! 6
- Mental Health Europe contribution to the European Parliament's Draft Report on Mental Health 7
- National Strategic Reports for Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008-2010 8
- MHE representation at various meetings 8

II. MENTAL HEALTH AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY 9

- Intergroup on Ageing meeting on the "Situation of older migrants in the European Union", 20 November 2008, European Parliament (Brussels) 9

III. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS 9

- LATVIA - New email address for Skalbes Crisis Centre 9
- UK - Consultation on new ways to deliver mental health services 9

IV. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY – 10 OCTOBER 2008 10

- CYPRUS - The Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill celebrated WMHD 2008 with concert 10
- FRANCE – Special WMHD TV Programme 10
- IRELAND- Eating disorders and suicide at the core of WMHD Conference 10
- LATVIA – Skalbes Director promotes WMHD in radio show 10

V. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS 11

- Autisme Europe 11
- European Days of Autism 2008 11
- EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network 11
- EAPN releases briefing note on the new European Employment Guidelines 2008-2010 11
- EDF – European Disability Forum 11
- EDF President sent letter to EDF members and citizens active in the "1million4disability" campaign 11
- EPF - European Patients' Forum 11
- Launch of the Patients Manifesto and campaign in the European Parliament 11

VI. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS 12

- Outcomes of the EPSCO Council's discussions on new draft directive on non-discrimination 12

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION 12

- DG Education and Culture – DG EAC 12
- Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP): Call for proposals 2009 is out! 12
- DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL 12
- Commission adopts Recommendation on Active Inclusion 12

- Workshop on "Integrated pathways to active social and economic inclusion", 8 October 2008, European Commission (Brussels) .. 13
- European Day of People with Disabilities Conference 13
- What social Europe can do for you 13
- DG Freedom, Security and Justice – DG JLS 14
- 4-year Action Plan and European Alliance on Drugs strengthen Europe's fight against drugs use 14
- DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO 14
- EU Open Health Forum 2008, "Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union", Brussels, 10–11 December 2008 14
- EU high-level conference on Mental Health: Conference report is out! 14
- DG Research – DG RTD 14
- Mental Health features in the new FP7 Health Call for proposals 14

VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 15

- Renewed social agenda: European Parliament takes a closer look 15
- European Parliament's report on the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty 15
- Launch of Europartlv, the WebTV of the European Parliament .. 15

IX. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 16

- Launch of new WHO report on mental health 16

X. UNITED NATIONS 16

- European Commission adopts proposals for decision to conclude the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol by the European Communities 16
- More countries ratify and sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol 16

XI. VARIOUS 17

- UK - Excessive restraint caused patient's death 17

XII. PUBLICATIONS 17

- Flash Eurobarometer on Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Young People 17
- The Social Economy in the European Union 17
- Bipolar disorder: the patients' perspective - HSCNews International 18

XIII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION 18

- EU Executive Agency for Health and Consumers has new website! 18
- FEANTSA launches European database on employment and homelessness 18
- New website Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities research 18
- Launch of the website of ANED - The Academic Network of European Disability Experts 18

XIV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS 18

I.NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Changes in the MHE staff

- Sogol Noorani has been working at Mental Health Europe for almost 3 years, as Project Coordinator for the project "*Good Practices for Combating Social Exclusion of People with Mental Health Problems*", and as Policy Officer responsible for the EU Strategy for Social Protection and Social Inclusion. She was also in charge of the coordination of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Minority Ethnic Communities.

Sogol has decided to leave Mental Health Europe, to take up a job as Social Science Adviser at the European Commission Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels from 16 October 2008 on.

We are very thankful to Sogol for her precious contribution in various MHE activities these last 3 years. We will miss her very much and we send her our best wishes for the future.

- Astrid Mechel has joined the MHE team on 29 September 2008. Astrid will replace Sogol Noorani as Social Policy Officer. Astrid is German and holds a B.A. in International Economics (with a focus on EU structural funds and employment policy) and a M.A. in International Politics.

Before joining MHE, Astrid gained work experience in various projects dealing with vocational training reforms, entrepreneurship education, South Eastern Europe and EU enlargement policy as well as gender equality.

We warmly welcome Astrid to the MHE team.

To contact Astrid: Email astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org

MHE invited to 2nd Equality Summit, Paris (France), 29-30 September 2008

The EU French Presidency and the European Commission organised a Second Summit on Equality on 29 and 30 September 2008 in Paris. It followed the first Equality Summit, organised under the German presidency at the launch of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (Berlin, 30-31 January 2007).

This summit brought together 400 high-ranking delegates and representatives coming from all over Europe.

The objectives were twofold:

1. to review the commitments made by countries which took part in the European Year of Equal Opportunity and in particular in the Council Resolution adopted in 2007 (Resolution on the follow-up of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All);
2. to add new momentum to measures against discrimination and to promote equality by offering a longer-term outlook, in which the next step will be the following summit meeting to be held under the Swedish presidency in 2009.

The Summit was structured around plenary sessions (with ministerial panels) and a series of workshops.

During the opening session, Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities, gave an overview of the Commission's proposal for a directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, which was adopted on 2 July 2008. He insisted on the fact that there should be no hierarchy between the different grounds of discrimination and the protection of dignity should be the same for all. The Commission is seeking to provide legal protection in all settings and situations of life.

MEP Richard Howitt called on Germany to support the Commission's directive (Germany is one of the major opponents to the directive).

Patrick Gohet, French Inter-Ministerial Delegate to Disabled People, explained that disability is the result of an interaction between a person's incapacity and society's failure to adapt to this incapacity. Hence the need for a more adapted society and the complementarity between adaptation and compensation. He also stressed that mental and psychosocial disabilities are amongst the most neglected. This was also argued by Carlotta Besozzi, Director European Disability Forum, who emphasized the need to rethink society and the production of goods and services according to the needs of people with disability.

On the last day, conclusions were made by representatives of the European Commission, the French Presidency and the Swedish Government (EU Presidency 2009).

Nikolaus Van der Pas, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities – European Commission, said that though he heard the participants' plea for a rapid adoption of the new directive on equality, this would not be easy because of the need for unanimity at the Council of Ministers (several Member States already unveiled their opposition to the directive) and the approval of the European Parliament. Similarly, though he heard the participants' plea for a broad and ambitious legislation, this has to be balanced with the reality of politics, i.e. the competence of Member States and the principle of subsidiarity. However, the Commission's commitment is strong and the Commission will work on the concept of equality in its broadest sense: new proposals on maternity leave, improving the rights of the spouses of independent workers, etc. are to be expected soon.

Finally, Nyamko Sabuni, Swedish Minister for Integration and Equality, invited all the participants to gather again at the 3rd Equality Summit, which will be organised by the Swedish Presidency in Stockholm on 16-17 November 2009.

Fanny Muller, MHE Information and Human Rights Officer, represented MHE at the Summit.

To read the Equality Summit conclusions: visit

http://www.ue2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/0929_sommet_equalite/conclusions_of_the_equality_summit_EN.pdf

For more information about the Summit: visit

http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-09_2008/PFUE-29.09.2008/sommet_de_l_equalite_paris_29_et_30_septembre_2008_7200

MHE represented at the Annual Conference for Psychiatry in Romania

The Romanian League for Mental Health organised a session on Mental Health at the Annual Conference for Psychiatry in Bucharest (Romania) on 3 October 2008.

Speakers included Patt Franciosi, World Federation for Mental Health (presenting the work of WFMH); Adina Biftoi from the Romanian League for Mental Health (presenting the work of the Romanian League); Mary Van Dievel from Mental Health Europe (presenting MHE's activities in the field of social inclusion and the EU Mental Health Pact), and Raluca Nica from the Romanian League for Mental Health presenting the work done in the framework of the South-Eastern Europe Health project, focussing on mental health (www.seemhp.ba).

For more information: visit <http://www.lrsm.ro/eng/welcome/rimh.htm>

MHE chairs first meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform

The European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) held the first meeting of its Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) in Vienna on 7-8 October 2008. The FRA is based in Vienna and cooperates with national and international bodies and organisations, in particular with the Council of Europe. The Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) is to be the Agency's main channel for FRA's cooperation and information exchange with civil society.

Representatives from about 100 NGOs and other bodies and organisations (the churches, charities etc) were invited to discuss and make suggestions on the strategic objectives of the Agency, priorities for the FRA Work Program 2009 and 2010, and on how the Platform itself would operate in the future.

Peter Kinderman, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool and Chair of the MHE Committee on Mental Health and Human Rights, represented Mental Health Europe at the meeting, and also acted as Chair of the meeting.

Participants to the Platform discussed these issues in four working groups. The rapporteurs of these groups created a common report, which was presented to the FRA management board on 23 October 2008. This report is likely to be highly supportive of the aims and the work of the FRA, but will also offer constructive criticism from those present and represented in the Platform. The participants suggested that the main strategic objectives for the FRA should include: work on increasing the visibility of Fundamental Rights issues, building the role of the FRA in advising EU policy making and legislative processes and that it should maintain its monitoring function and its role as a Fundamental Rights watchdog. The Platform did not feel it had enough information, yet, to comment on the FRA's work programme, and generally wanted to avoid a 'shopping list' of most important Fundamental Rights issues – the theme of "Rights for All" seemed to sum up the meeting. This meant that topics like data protection, rights across the age-span (including, therefore, children's rights), rights of undocumented peoples and access to justice were strongly supported.

Peter – as acting Chair of the Platform - will now help draw up proposals to define the Platform's organisational structures and mechanisms of representation. These may well include a permanent Panel as well as representation on the FRA Board. In November 2008 the FRA will begin to draft its 2010 work program. A consultation process on this will start at the beginning of 2009 and there will be a further meeting of the Platform in Vienna in 2009.

For more information: visit

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php?fuseaction=content.dsp_cat_content&catid=4884868eab0d9&contentid=48848797a9588

Many thanks to Peter Kinderman for this contribution.

MHE participates in consultation meeting on "Care for health in the workplace – Psychosocial health and work"

MHE member organisation Ozara organised a consultation meeting at the 2nd Chamber of the Parliament in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on "Care for health in the workplace – Psychosocial health and work" on the eve of World Mental Health Day, 9 October 2008.

The meeting was opened by Blaz Kavcic, President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia and Igor Hrast, manager of the Educational and Research Institute Ozara, and chaired by Mojca Dernovsek from Ozara.

Speakers included Anita Patel, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London (The Economic Dimension of Mental Health); Borut Meh, Head of the interest group of employers of the Slovenian National Council (Awareness of long and short term investment in health preservation); Dusan Semolic, Head of the Interest group of employees of the Slovenian National Council (The role of the trade Unions in the health care of the employee); Mary Van Dievel, Director of Mental Health Europe (Promoting well-being in employment); Mojca Dernovsek, Educational and Research Institute Ozara (Stress control and prevention of burn-out); Gregor Hauc, Educational and Research Institute Ozara (Project management as one of the stress-decreasing factors).

The conference was well attended and the Conclusions, presented by Mojca Dernovsek, will soon be available on the Ozara website, in English and in Slovene.

For more information: visit <http://www.ozara.org/>

WMHD 2008: MHE issues statement on "Making Inclusion a European Reality – Promoting an Integrated Approach to the Inclusion of People with Mental Health Problems"

The 10th of October marks the annual commemoration of World Mental Health Day, the only annual global awareness campaign, celebrated in over 100 countries, focusing specifically on improving public understanding about mental health and mental illnesses.

On this year's World Mental Health Day, Mental Health Europe (MHE) wanted to recall the many achievements in the field of mental health and well-being that have taken place in Europe over the last decades. Europe has witnessed the closure of the large psychiatric hospitals and institutions in many countries and the beginning of a process of de-institutionalisation resulting in the creation of support services providing independent living in the community for people with mental health problems. Across Europe more and more emphasis is placed on the social dimension of mental health and well-being and there is a growing recognition of the social inclusion challenges of people with mental health problems. But the situation in Europe is still far from ideal. MHE wants to call attention to the fact that despite the increased attention to these issues in Europe, mental health and well-being and the promotion of social inclusion of people with mental health problems is still not receiving the attention it deserves. An increasing number of people living in Europe experience or are at risk of developing mental health problems. In today's rapidly changing economy people are at a greater risk than ever to fall into a vicious circle of mental ill-health, unemployment, poverty, housing problems, social isolation and worsening mental health problems, from which it is only very hard to escape. In all European countries, there is a need to step up efforts to develop policies and initiatives to break this vicious circle.

At the European level, the EU's forthcoming Recommendation on an Active Inclusion is a very welcome step in that direction. MHE believes that in order for the European Union make a clear commitment towards strengthening a Europe that is social and inclusive, leaving no one behind, there is a need to strengthen the three pillars of Active Inclusion that guarantee adequate minimum income, quality services and access to employment for people furthest

from the labour market. However, this is only part of the solution. In Europe many people with mental health problems are facing poverty, homelessness and social exclusion as a result of their enduring mental illness and the socio-economic systems' inability to provide opportunities for these people as full citizens. The EU also needs to address these people's concerns by strengthening the Open Method of Coordination on Social Inclusion and Social Protection in all Member States, thus ensuring that all European citizens have the opportunity, within the scope of their abilities, to participate and contribute to the society in which they live.

"Promoting and nurturing mental health and well-being should go hand in hand with planning for a prosperous and just economy, working to respond to the challenges presented by poverty and deprivation and facilitating social inclusion and cohesion", says Malgorzata Kmita, President of MHE. "Indeed, it can be argued that there can be no social inclusion and cohesion without positive mental health and well-being and there can be no mental health and well-being without social inclusion and cohesion."

For more information contact the MHE Secretariat: Email info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68, Fax +32 2 280 16 04

MHE's involvement in the 7th Round Table for combating poverty and social exclusion

The 7th Round Table for combating poverty and social exclusion was organised by the French EU Presidency in Marseille on 15-16 October 2008 and was attended by over 200 key stakeholders: NGOs, people experiencing poverty, national, regional and local authorities and representatives of the trade unions and the employers.

Mental Health Europe was represented by Malgorzata Kmita, President MHE, Claude Deutsch, Board member and Mary Van Dievel, Director.

The Round Table was chaired by Martin Hirsch, the High Commissioner for Active Inclusion Against Poverty of the French Government.

The European Commission's Recommendation on Active Inclusion was the key focus of the Round Table.

A consolidated statement of the Social Platform members was presented by Dirk Jarré; the main conclusion of this presentation was that market laws and social issues are not necessarily incompatible.

(http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Social_Inclusion/DJspeechpovertyroundtable2008final.pdf)

Mental Health Europe prepared a Position Paper on "Active Inclusion Strategy for the people furthest from the labour market" in which we welcomed the Round Table's focus on active inclusion as a unique opportunity to discuss the situation of people with mental health problems who are amongst the most vulnerable groups in society that are furthest away from the labour market.

This Position Paper is available on the MHE website:

http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/MHE%20position%20paper%20on%207th%20European%20Round%20Table%20on%20Poverty_Marseille_2008.pdf

Fintan Farrell, Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network, presented the conclusions. Three important innovations were highlighted:

- the direct involvement of people experiencing poverty in the whole programme (as well plenary sessions as workshops);
- the active involvement of the press;
- and the fact that the Round Table was linked with a Ministerial meeting on poverty.

Indeed, for the first time, an informal ministerial meeting on the fight against poverty followed immediately the roundtable; it aimed to both strengthen political commitment from Member States in this area, and make recommendations which could feed the December Council on active inclusion.

The official conclusions of the Round Table are only available in French at this stage: http://www.ue2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/1015_table_ronde_pauvrete/communiqu%C3%A9_presse_table_ronde_definitif.pdf

All the presentations will be posted on the French Presidency website later on; we will keep you informed.

MHE's activities highlighted during Social Platform Steering Group meeting

The Social Platform Steering Group met on 23 October. Mary Van Dievel attended this meeting on behalf of Mental Health Europe and presented MHE's main activities at this moment which are:

- Liaise with our National Focal Points regarding the Commission's annual Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion to analyse the situation in the EU member states. In the frame of the streamlining of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (OMC), the EU Member States submitted their National Reports 2008-2010 for each of the three areas of Social Inclusion, Pensions and Health and Long-Term Care. MHE members now have the opportunity to contribute to the EU's Joint Report and to influence their future strategies on mental health issues.
- Last year several MHE members took part in a reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter, which was carried out for the first time by Mental Health Europe. Because it has been a success and the contribution of MHE members has been acknowledged and praised by Council of Europe's officials engaged in the activity, MHE decided to continue this year and MHE members are strongly encouraged to engage in the new round of reports.
- Follow-up on the launch of the Mental Health Pact by the European Commission (June 2008), in case contribute to the work of the Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs of the proposed European Parliament Motion on mental health.
- And last but not least, preparation of the MHE work programmes 2009 in the framework of the EC – DG Employment PROGRESS programme.

At the Steering Group meeting the Social Platform's Work Programme was adopted and the Social Platform Annual Conference, to be held in Brussels on 9-10 December, was discussed. At this conference, Mental Health Europe will be organising a workshop together with Solidar, on how to bridge the gap with national organisations and ensure that their voice is heard in European Networks. The workshop will focus on Central and Eastern European countries. MHE members from these countries who would like to participate in this conference are kindly requested to contact the MHE secretariat.

For more information: contact the MHE Secretariat: Email info@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68

Reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter: Engage in the new round of reports!

Last year several MHE members took part in the reporting activity on the implementation of the European Social Charter, which was carried out for the first time by Mental Health Europe. The activity has been a success and the contribution of MHE members has been acknowledged and praised by Council of Europe's officials engaged in the activity.

MHE strongly encourages its members to continue this good work and engage together with MHE in the new round of reports.

The initiative is still led by the Council of Europe (CoE) European Social Charter and Social Policies Grouping.

The reporting activity consists in checking whether the national reports sent by the States Parties of the European Social Charter (ESC) – that is to say the States that ratified the Charter – to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), the body responsible for monitoring compliance in the States Parties to the ESC, reflect the situation on the ground.

The reports are one of the means available to NGOs for monitoring the honouring of commitments entered into by the countries that had signed the European Social Charter.

If you participate in this activity you will have an opportunity to denounce the existing violations of the rights of people with mental health problems plus a powerful mean to put pressure on your national governments.

Last year, MHE members commented on Article 15 of the Charter (Right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation) and Article 20 (Right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation without discrimination on the ground of sex).

Amongst others, their reports pointed out:

- the absence of relevant statistical data and the impact of poor interconnection between employment and social services and healthcare systems on the practical exercise of the

rights of people with mental health problems to vocational training, rehabilitation and social resettlement;

- the high scale of health inequalities experienced by people with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities in accessing primary health care services.

Should you wish to read last year's contributions, please do not hesitate to contact Fanny Muller at the MHE Secretariat: Email fmuller@mhe-sme.org

This year MHE decided to focus on Article 11 (Right to protection of health) and Article 30 (Right to protection against poverty and social exclusion).

If you decide to take part in the activity, MHE will take care of forwarding you the relevant reports, as soon as they are published on the Council of Europe website - this should start at the end of October. For example, the report produced by the Polish government will be sent to the participating MHE members from Poland, etc.

The participating members will be in charge of carefully reading specific parts of the reports (the members' task will be facilitated since the MHE Secretariat will take care of forwarding to them only the relevant parts for their work), assessing the situation on the ground and report on it. All comments will then be collected by MHE, assembled in a single document and sent to the European Committee of Social Rights' Secretariat.

We expect the organisations willing to engage in this report activity to answer to this call for participation before 15 November 2008 at the latest.

We expect the organisations to read the reports and send their comments to the MHE Secretariat before the end of December at the latest. This will leave us enough time to draft a final document and to pass it on to the European Committee of Social Rights' Secretariat, which will start reading the reports in the beginning of February 2009.

If you have any questions about this initiative and to engage in the reporting activity, please contact Fanny Muller, Information and Human Rights Officer: Email fmuller@mhe-sme.org, Tel +32 2 280 04 68.

For more information on the reporting activity and the European Social Charter, visit:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/PresentationIndex_en.asp

Mental Health Europe contribution to the European Parliament's Draft Report on Mental Health

In follow-up to the establishment of the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being in June 2008, Evangelia Tzampazi MEP, Rapporteur for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, has submitted a motion for a European Parliament Resolution on Mental Health.

Mental Health Europe (MHE) welcomes the European Parliament's initiative as a key step forward in the implementation of the Pact for Mental Health and Well-being. Upon invitation by the Rapporteur and other members of the European Parliament, MHE has had the opportunity to provide strategical advice on key issues highlighted in the report.

In its draft report, the European Parliament supports the Pact's call on the EU institutions, the Member States and key actors and players to cooperate and take actions on five priority areas for the promotion of the mental health and well-being of the population, combating stigma and social exclusion, strengthening preventive action and self-help and providing support and adequate treatment to people with mental health problems and to their families and carers.

The Parliament encourages the establishment of a multi-stakeholder consultative Platform to implement the European Pact, involving also service users, families, carers, NGOs and academics. The motion for a resolution also calls on the Member States to support the strengthening of organisations which represent service users and carers in order to facilitate their participation in the formulation and implementation of policy and in all stages of research into mental health.

The draft report will be further discussed by the EP Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety at its next meeting on 4 November 2008.

To read the Tzampazi's draft Report on Mental Health:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/draftReports.do?language=EN>

For more information on the work of MHE around this issue, contact Mari Fresu, Health Policy Officer, at mari.fresu@mhe-sme.org

National Strategic Reports for Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008-2010

In the frame of the streamlining of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the EU Member States submitted their National Plans for each of the three areas of Social Inclusion, Pensions and Health and Long-Term Care. The European Commission – DG Employment and Social Affairs - is preparing its annual Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion in the EU Member States.

Mental Health Europe has asked the National Focal Points to analyse their respective national reports. MHE is gathering all the information for a common MHE report on the taking into consideration of the Mental Health aspect in the 27 national reports in order to contribute to the EU's Joint Report and to influence their future strategies on mental health and related policies.

The National Strategic Reports are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/strategy_reports_en.htm

If you did not send your comments on your national reports yet, please do so as soon as possible, we count on your contribution!

For more information and for your input, contact Astrid Mechel, Social Policy Officer, at astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org

MHE representation at various meetings

On 2 October, Sogol Noorani and Astrid Mechel, Social Policy Officers, attended a meeting between the European Commission and the EU Networks active in the Social Inclusion and Social Protection Process, organised by the European Commission's DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

On 2-5 October, Mary Van Dievel, Director, represented MHE at the Annual Conference for Psychiatry which was organised in Bucharest (Romania) by the Romanian League for Mental Health. She presented MHE's activities in the field of social inclusion and the EU Mental Health Pact. (See p. 3)

On 7- 8 October, Peter Kinderman, Chair MHE Committee on Mental Health and Human Rights, participated in and chaired the first meeting of the FRA (EU Fundamental Rights Agency) Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) which took place in Vienna (Austria). (See p.3-4)

On 8 October, Roselyne Bourgon, stagiaire, attended a workshop on "*Integrated pathways to active social and economic inclusion*" which was organised in Brussels in the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities. (See p. 13)

On 9 October, Mary Van Dievel, participated in the Psychosocial Health and Work Conference which was organised in Ljubljana (Slovenia) by the Educational and Research Institute Ozara Ljubljana and the National Council of Slovenia on the occasion of World's Mental Health Day 2008. Mary made a presentation on "*Promoting well-being in employment*". (See p.4)

On 14 October, Astrid Mechel and Roselyne Bourgon represented MHE at a debate on "*Mainstreaming Healthy Ageing in the renewed Social Agenda*" which was organised in the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels by the EP Intergroup on Ageing, in cooperation with AGE (the European Older People's Platform) and EPHA (the European Public Health Alliance).

On 14-15 October, Malgorzata Kmita, MHE President, Claude Deutsch, Board member and Mary Van Dievel, represented MHE at the 7th Round Table for combating poverty and social exclusion which was organised by the French EU Presidency in Marseille (France). A MHE Position Paper on "*Active Inclusion Strategy for the people furthest from the labour market*" was released on this occasion. (See p.5)

On 16 October, Roselyne Bourgon attended a Health & Consumer Intergroup meeting held at the European Parliament in Brussels on the new cross-border healthcare directive.

On 23 October, Mary Van Dievel participated in a meeting of the Social Platform Steering Group. She presented MHE's current main activities. (See p.6)

On the same day, Astrid Mechel attended a meeting of the Social Platform Working Group for Social Services of General Interest.

On 24 October, Astrid Mechel attended the Preparatory Meeting for the Networking Visit to Croatia (to take place on 24-25 November 2008), organised by the Social Platform.

On 29-30 October, Fanny Muller, Information and Human Rights Officer, represented MHE at the Council of Europe Conference "Protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe: towards full participation, inclusion and empowerment" which was held in Strasbourg (France).

II. MENTAL HEALTH AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

In line with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, MHE has created a new section on "Mental Health and Ethnic Diversity" in order to promote increased awareness about the situation of all the people in Europe, in particular ethnic minorities, who often face difficulties in becoming a full part of the economic, political, cultural and social lives of their countries. MHE wants to work towards ensuring quality mental health care and social services, human rights and equal opportunities that are accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society. This was also the focus of the MHE Conference 2008 "Diversity in Mental Health and Well-being – An Opportunity for Intercultural Dialogue", which took place in Aalborg (Denmark) on 7-9 August 2008 (for more information: <http://www.mhe-aalborg.dk/>).

Intergroup on Ageing meeting on the "Situation of older migrants in the European Union", 20 November 2008, European Parliament (Brussels)

Jean Lambert MEP and AGE (the European Older People's Platform) are organising an Intergroup on Ageing meeting on "The situation of older migrants in the European Union".

In the context of the European year on Intercultural Dialogue 2008, this Intergroup on Ageing meeting will seek to raise awareness of the situation of older migrants in the European Union from a multi-dimensional approach addressing the key policy areas which have an impact on older migrants lives: social inclusion, social protection, health and long-term care, non-discrimination, employment and active ageing, and lifelong learning.

To register for this event, contact:

Rachel Sheppard, Tel +32 2 283 75 07, Email jean.lambert@europarl.europa.eu,

or Karen Vandeweghe, Tel +32 2 280 14 70, Email karen.vandeweghe@age-platform.org

III. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

LATVIA - New email address for Skalbes Crisis Centre

Dace Beinare, Skalbes Director, has a new email address.

You can now contact her at dace@skalbes.lv

UK - Consultation on new ways to deliver mental health services

On 16 October, the British Psychological Society launched an online public consultation on its proposals for access to mental health services.

The proposals have been drawn up as part of the Society's response to discussions with the Department of Health on future plans for mental health care. Psychologists are calling for a greater emphasis on psychological well-being across the National Health Service. They call for services to take into account a person's wider social needs as well as their medical diagnosis. The Society also strongly supports the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for providing psychological therapies and proposes a new national network of centres for psychological health and well-being.

The consultation takes place online from 16 October to 11 December at:

<http://www.bps.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing>

You can also email comments to: wellbeing@bps.org.uk

Many thanks to Nigel Atter, from the British Psychological Society, for this contribution.

IV. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY – 10 OCTOBER 2008

CYPRUS - The Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill celebrated WMHD 2008 with concert

The Advocacy Group for the Mentally Ill (AGMI) together with the management team and children of the choral group "Angel Voices" organised a special concert dedicated to World Mental Health Day (WMHD) 2008 on 3 September 2008, in the Municipal Theatre of Larnaca (Cyprus).

The event was held under the auspices of Markos Kyprianou, Cypriot Minister for Foreign Affairs and former EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Affairs.

The messages and theme of WMHD were highlighted during the event and disseminated amongst the nearly 500 people who attended the event. A broad range of participants were present: ministers, public authorities, service providers, representatives from the mental health field and from the social services, Members of Parliament, professionals in the field, parents, children, artists, volunteers, media, etc.

Elise Torossian, AGMI President, pointed out the need for appropriate attention to be given to mental health and called on the audience to lobby for positive changes.

A message from Markos Kyprianou was read.

The event was reported in the September calendar of cultural events of the municipality of Larnaca. It was also mentioned on TV and in other magazines and newspapers.

For more information: contact person, Elise Torossian, Email agftmi@cytanet.com.cy

Many thanks to Elise Torossian for this contribution.

FRANCE – Special WMHD TV Programme

On Tuesday 7 October, in the frame of WMHD, the French TV channel "France 5" broadcasted a show prepared by Journalist and Director Serge Moati, on the theme "*My questions about madness*". A film realised in Sainte Anne's hospital in Paris by Serge Moati and an interview of psychiatrist and writer Boris Cyrulnik on the theme "*Where is the border between madness and normality?*" were shown on this occasion.

For more information: contact Claude Deutsch, MHE Board member,

Email deutschclaud@neuf.fr

Many thanks to Claude Deutsch for this contribution.

IRELAND- Eating disorders and suicide at the core of WMHD Conference

Cork Mental Health Foundation organised a half day conference for young people to celebrate World Mental Health Day. This was held in The Cork School Of Music Curtis Auditorium.

The day consisted of a talk on eating disorders from the Shandon Therapy Centre. This was followed by a drama written by a local writer. This was called "Suicide Notes". Following this performance there was a panel of Mental Health Professionals, representatives from the Samaritans and Cork Mental Health Foundation on the stage and there was a Question and Answer session. Relevant contact numbers were also made available to all the people in the auditorium.

There was an audience of over 200 people and the feedback, which was given in their evaluation forms of the day, was very positive.

For more information: contact Aidan Fahy, Email avfahy@yahoo.com

Many thanks to Aidan Fahy for this contribution.

LATVIA – Skalbes Director promotes WMHD in radio show

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day (WMHD) 2008, Dace Beinare, Director Association Skalbes (MHE member), was invited to talk about WHHD and mental health in general in a national radio station (Radio 1) talk show which was broadcasted on Saturday 11 October.

For more information: contact person, Dace Beinare, Email dace@skalbes.lv

Many thanks to Dace Beinare for this contribution.

What have you done for World Mental Health Day? Send us your contributions!

V. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN NGOS

Autisme Europe

European Days of Autism 2008

On the occasion of the European Day of Autism 2008 (4 October), Autism-Europe – in cooperation with the Hungarian Autistic Society – hosted a conference on adapted care for persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Budapest (Hungary).

Over 150 international stakeholders (both parents and professionals) met to exchange experiences on adapted care under a right-based approach to disability. Best practices to promote inclusion and life-long learning of persons with ASD were shared.

The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of the specific needs of persons with ASD across Europe and the active measures to be implemented to allow them to develop their unique potential. It also intended to bring together actors from across the EU in order to promote partnerships and cooperation.

For more information: visit <http://www.autismeurope.org>

EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network

EAPN releases briefing note on the new European Employment Guidelines 2008-2010

EAPN released a new briefing note comparing the new European Employment Guidelines 2008-2010 with the 2003-2008 ones. The Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States are part of the Lisbon integrated guidelines (Micro-economic, macro-economic and employment guidelines), but are adopted separately by the Council. This year, the guidelines for the next Lisbon cycle for the period 2008-2010 were at stake. The Commission made a first proposal in December 2007, which was thoroughly debated.

To download the briefing note:

http://www.eapn.eu/images/docs/briefingnoteon08-10employmentguidelinesfinal_en.pdf

EDF – European Disability Forum

EDF President sent letter to EDF members and citizens active in the "1million4disability" campaign

Following discussions in the EDF Executive Committee, EDF President sent a letter to all EDF members which aims to clarify the position of EDF following the successful "1million4disability" campaign, the demands for a disability specific non discrimination legislation and the European Commission proposal for a broader non-discrimination legislation beyond employment based on religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability and age.

In the letter, EDF President expresses his understanding on the disappointment that some members and citizens might have after all the efforts put in collecting more than 1 million signatures. He, however, underlines that EDF had always been and will also remain coherent, honest and consistent towards its position and goals stressing that for EDF the content of the legislation has a priority over the specific or global approach.

EDF ensured that the voices of the over a million of citizens have been heard and that priority will be given to ensure that the rights of disabled persons are fully and properly addressed in the EU legislation.

For more information: visit www.1million4disability.eu

Source: EDF

EPF - European Patients' Forum

Launch of the Patients Manifesto and campaign in the European Parliament

On 16 September, the European Patients' Forum (EPF) has launched a patients Manifesto and campaign "150 Million reasons to act" in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Patients Manifesto highlights three fundamental areas to improve the quality of healthcare delivered across the EU, from a patients' perspective:

- Equal and timely access to safe, effective diagnosis, treatments and support;

- Better information and resources for patients to be partners in determining their care;
- A patients' voice to be heard in Brussels and throughout the European Union.

The Manifesto calls upon the political groups within the European Parliament, MEPs (Member of the European Parliament), prospective MEPs, national representatives in the EU Member States and the new European Commission (to be appointed in 2009) to commit to the legitimate rights and needs of patients and to make it their priority now.

For more information: visit <http://www.eu-patient.eu/>

VI. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Outcomes of the EPSCO Council's discussions on new draft directive on non-discrimination

At their meeting in Luxembourg on 2 October 2008, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) unanimously supported the underlying objective of the new proposal for a directive against discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in access to social protection, health care, education and access to goods, services and housing. However they expressed concerns over the respect of the subsidiarity principle in areas of national competency, such as social protection, training/education and health. Strong demand was also made for better clarification of the terminology and many concepts, in particular Article 4 on the non-discriminatory treatment of persons with disabilities. A majority of delegations consider that the existing text does not offer the required legal security, except for conferring the European Court of Justice with its responsibility of interpreting the provisions on a case by case basis.

Apart from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Spain, which are particularly supportive of this draft directive, all the other delegations said that they would prefer to await further clarification before expressing their point of view. The Czech Republic, which will take over the Presidency at the Council meeting in December, was particularly critical of the proposed legislation, as it had been rejected by both its Senate and government. Germany, another vocal critic, expressed itself in more measured tones but stressed that its position has not changed since last July.

The Council's legal service is preparing an Opinion on the field of application and legal basis of the proposal, which is expected to be crucial in the debate. The French Presidency is keen to make progress on this draft directive and French Minister for Employment and Equality, Mr. Xavier Bertrand, assured his ministerial counterparts that problems regarding structuring national and Community legislation will be taken into account.

MHE welcomes the support of Member States but is concerned that the absence of a clear definition of disability in the draft directive's provisions may lead to the exclusion of people with mental health problems from the scope of the directive.

The Council also adopted the decision making 2010 the European Year against poverty and social exclusion.

The main results of the EPSCO discussions are available at:

<http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/pid/13641>

Source: The European Older People's Platform

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Education and Culture – DG EAC

Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP): Call for proposals 2009 is out!

The Lifelong Learning Programme applies to all types and levels of education and vocational education and training and it is, in particular, accessible for not-for-profit organisations, voluntary bodies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

For more information: visit

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/leonardo/call_en.html

DG Employment and Social Affairs – DG EMPL

Commission adopts Recommendation on Active Inclusion

The European Commission has adopted its Recommendation on Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market on 3 October 2008. The Recommendation includes a set of common principles to guide EU countries to define policies for the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market and is based on three pillars: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services.

A formal discussion will take place by national governments at the Employment and Social Affairs Council in December 2008 and decisions on follow-up actions will be taken.

MHE had contributed to the European Commission consultation with a position paper on "Modernising Social Protection for Greater Social Justice and Economic Cohesion: Taking Forward the Active Inclusion of People Furthest from the Labour Market" in February 2008:

<http://www.mhe-sme.org/assets/files/publications/MHE%20Contribution%20on%20Active%20Inclusion.pdf>

The full text of the Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion can be obtained at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=612&langId=en>

For more information, please contact Astrid Mechel, Social Policy Officer, at astrid.mechel@mhe-sme.org

Workshop on "Integrated pathways to active social and economic inclusion", 8 October 2008, European Commission (Brussels)

This event was organised during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, in the frame of the European Commission's OPEN DAYS 2008 programme.

The workshop presented examples of active social and economic inclusion measures implemented at local and regional level and discussed them in the framework of the common principles elaborated at EU level in this area. It was chaired by Jérôme Vignon, Director at the Directorate General of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission.

The main objective of the workshop was to show that local authorities play a key role in designing, funding and managing policies for vulnerable people that provide adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality local services.

The workshop included speakers from EUROCITIES and the cities of London, Barcelona and Dortmund. These cities all have a long history in working towards active inclusion, which is enshrined in their local policy programmes.

MHE was represented at this workshop by Roselyne Bourgon, stagiaire.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2008/sessions.cfm?nmenu=2&sub=1&sme_nu=11 (Open Days 2008)

<http://www.bcn.cat/barcelonainclusiva/eng/index.htm> (Barcelona citizenship agreement)

<http://www.eurocities.org/main.php> (EUROCITIES response to the European Commission consultation on Active Inclusion of people furthest away from the labour market)

www.sozialbericht.dortmund.de (Dortmund city website, in German only)

European Day of People with Disabilities Conference

To mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, the European Commission organises a policy conference in the first week of December each year, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF). This year's Conference will take place in Brussels on 1 and 2 December. The title of the Conference will be "Acting locally for a society for all". The Conference will focus on how EU action/legislation reaches the local level and will provide examples of disability mainstreaming.

For more information: contact person, Paulette Matkovic Ramirez,

Email paulette.matkovic-ramirez@ec.europa.eu, Tel +32 2 298 82 15

What social Europe can do for you

The European Commission has published a series of 26 fact sheets which highlight how EU citizens can benefit from EU policies in the area of employment and social policy. The fact sheets are divided into six thematic areas: more and better jobs, rights at work, inclusion and equality, job mobility, EU funding programmes, and policy in practice.

To download the fact sheets:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/publications/booklets/general/pdf/ke0008001_en.pdf

DG Freedom, Security and Justice – DG JLS

4-year Action Plan and European Alliance on Drugs strengthen Europe's fight against drugs use

On 18 September, the Commission adopted "*An EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012*" which proposes wide-ranging measures to strengthen European cooperation to curb the adverse consequences of drug use and cut drug-related crime. These measures also include a European Alliance on Drugs to reduce the harm caused by drugs in our society. Through the European Alliance on Drugs, the Commission also calls on government bodies, public services and voluntary organisations to work in partnership.

The Action Plan 2009-2012 builds on the existing approach of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 which set out a European model for drug policy based on a balanced approach to reduce both supply and demand for drugs. The five main priorities of the new Action Plan include reducing the demand for drugs and raising public awareness, mobilising European citizens, reducing the supply of drugs, improving international cooperation and facilitating a better understanding of the drug phenomenon.

Actions proposed include measures to improve the quality, availability and coverage of treatment and harm reduction programmes for drug users and the establishment of intelligence-led police and customs operations to counter large-scale organised crime groups both in the EU and on the drug trafficking routes from Afghanistan and Latin America.

The EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012 will be presented to the Council and is expected to be adopted before the end of the year.

For more information: visit

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/571&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Source: European Commission

DG Health and Consumer Protection – DG SANCO

EU Open Health Forum 2008, "Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union", Brussels, 10-11 December 2008

The European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers is organising the conference of the EU Health Forum in Brussels on 10-11 December 2008.

Under the overall theme of "*Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union*" the conference will mark an important step towards strengthening the involvement of all stakeholders in contributing to the development and implementation of actions and activities to protect and improve the health of European citizens. Building on the progress made through structures as the EU Health Forum, the European Commission will work closely with stakeholder groups, and with regional and local level bodies with a view to optimising their contribution to the implementation of the EU health strategy.

The EU Open Health Forum is a mechanism for the European Commission to get feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Health Policy and to identify the need for new policy initiatives at EU level. It also facilitates networking and exchange of best practice in the implementation of public health policies at EU, national, regional and local level.

For further information and to register to the EU Open Health conference:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/open_2008/index_en.htm

EU high-level conference on Mental Health: Conference report is out!

The report on the EU High Level Conference, "*Together for Mental Health and Well-Being*", which took place in Brussels on 13 June 2008 is now available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_conference_en.htm

DG Research – DG RTD

Mental Health features in the new FP7 Health Call for proposals

The second Health call for proposals under the EU Seventh Research Framework (FP7) has been published.

The call presents opportunities for researchers in mental health, with topics of interest in the fields of neurosciences, health service delivery, public health and health information. The call opened on 3 September and will close on 3 December 2008. Projects can receive up to €3m funding from the European Commission.

Health falls under the FP7 strand 'Cooperation'. The overall objective of the Health Theme is to improve the health of European citizens, increase the competitiveness and boost the innovative capacity of European health related industries and businesses, while addressing global health issues including emerging epidemics.

Basic information on FP7 is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding

For further information on the areas that relate to mental health, visit:

<http://www.supportproject.eu/news/homepage-news/fp7health2009.htm>

Source: SUPPORT Project

VIII. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Renewed social agenda: European Parliament takes a closer look

On 2 September, the European Parliament organised a first debate around the Renewed Social Agenda adopted by the European Commission at the beginning of July. The package of 18 legislative and non-legislative initiatives around employment, social protection, health, migration and integration, and anti-discrimination was presented by Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Commissioner Vladimir Špidla. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were divided in their reactions. While some MEPs speaking in the plenary debate welcomed the package of measures, others said they were insufficiently specific and substantial. There will be a vote on a resolution on the whole package at the next plenary session.

To read the summary of the European Parliament's debate on the renewed social agenda:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/047-35963-245-09-36-908-20080902IPR35961-01-09-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

Source: EAPN

European Parliament's report on the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty

In September, the own-initiative report "*Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty, in the European Union*" was voted on by the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

Drafted by Gabriele Zimmer, the report defends and advocates for a holistic approach to eradicating poverty, which seeks to ensure adequate incomes, quality jobs and better access to social services and services of general interest. The social risks of child poverty and homelessness are given particular attention.

The report also suggests Member States should provide targeted additional benefits for disadvantaged groups (such as people with disabilities or chronic diseases, lone parents or households with many children).

In particular, the report highlights the importance of promoting integrated services that respond to the multidimensionality of poverty and social exclusion, e.g. the link between health and mental health.

To download the report:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-402.880+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

Source: European Anti-Poverty Network

Launch of EuroparlTV, the WebTV of the European Parliament

On 17 September 2008, the European Parliament launched on the Internet its own webTV channel: "*EuroparlTV*". Anyone in the world with Internet access is now able to watch a regularly changing set of programmes based around the life of the Parliament.

To access EuroparlTV: <http://www.europarlTV.europa.eu/>

IX. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Launch of new WHO report on mental health

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day 2008, WHO launched its latest report on mental health "*Policies and practices for mental health in Europe*". The report will form a basis for much of the work that still needs to be done despite the progress achieved since the endorsement of the Helsinki Declaration and Action Plan in January 2005.

It provides data not hitherto available on mental health policy and practice across the European Region, it highlights important information gaps and allows for country to country comparisons on indicators such as numbers of psychiatrists, financing, community services, training of workforce, prescription of anti-depressants and representation of users and carers. Data for the 42 Member States involved was obtained from the Ministries of Health.

The report and supporting documents can be accessed on the WHO mental health website:

http://www.euro.who.int/mentalhealth/baseline/20080602_1

Source: WHO

X. UNITED NATIONS

European Commission adopts proposals for decision to conclude the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol by the European Communities

On 29 August, the European Commission adopted the proposal for a Council decision to conclude, on behalf of the European Community, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A decision to conclude the Optional Protocol was adopted on the same day as well.

The Commission proposal recommends approving the Convention subject to a reservation on employment of persons with disabilities in the armed forces, and establishes that the Community competencies regarding the implementation of the Convention are extended to the following areas: combating discrimination on the ground of disability (Article 13); free movement of goods, persons, services and capital (Article 26, Articles 45-48 and Article 55); agriculture (Articles 36-37); transport by rail, road, sea and air transport (Article 71 and Article 80); State aid (Articles 87-88); indirect taxation (Article 93); internal market (Article 95); equal pay for male and female workers (Article 141); statistics (Article 285); education – only encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if, necessary, supporting and supplementing their action (Article 149); implementing of vocational training policy – only to support and supplement the action of the Member States (Article 150); actions leading to the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the Community to promote its harmonious development (Article 158)

The decisions to conclude the UN Convention and its Optional Protocol would be taken by the Council in consultation with the European Parliament.

More information and the text of the proposal can be obtained upon request to the EDF secretariat: Email Janina.arsenjeva@edf-fehp.org

Source: EDF

More countries ratify and sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

More ratifications have taken place in September and October, bringing up to more than 40 the ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and to 25 the ratifications of the Optional Protocol.

On 25 September, Romania signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention. On 26 September Austria ratified the Convention and the Optional Protocol.

Outside Europe New Zealand ratified both the Convention and Optional Protocol, Uganda ratified the Convention, and Pakistan signed the Convention.

On 1 October, Cameroon signed both the Convention and the Optional Protocol. On the same day, Costa Rica ratified the Convention.

For more information: visit <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

XI. VARIOUS

UK - Excessive restraint caused patient's death

The death of a psychiatric patient at a Swansea hospital six years ago was caused by excessive physical restraint, an inquest jury said. The inquest into Kurt Howard's death in June 2002 at Cefn Coed Hospital ended with a detailed narrative verdict. The jury also drew attention to failings in staffing, training and facilities at the hospital. The five-week inquest had heard that Mr. Howard, 32, from Swansea and diagnosed with schizophrenia, tried to attack a nurse on ward five at the hospital. He was restrained twice on the day of his death, for up to 55 minutes in total. The jury decided after four days of deliberation that Mr. Howard's sudden death *"was caused by an excessive, prolonged physical restraint, face down on the floor in a confined environment, suffering acute behavioural disturbance in a background of chronic psychosis brought on by a history of illicit drug taking"*. It also set out eight separate conclusions that all draw attention to shortcomings that contributed to Mr. Howard's death. Among them are that some of the staff involved in the restraint did not have the right training. A spokeswoman for Albertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust said a series of actions had been put in place by the former Swansea NHS Trust following an internal review in 2002 after Mr. Howard's death. They concentrated on more robust violence and aggression management training, and tighter procedures.

Health Minister Ivan Lewis has announced that 32 primary care trusts around Britain will begin to provide psychological therapy for people with depression and anxiety. It is part of the government's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) which has only been piloted until now.

For more information: visit

http://www.psychminded.co.uk/news/news2008/July08/Physical_restraint_psychiatric_patient_001.htm

Source: Openmind

XII. PUBLICATIONS

Flash Eurobarometer on Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Young People

A Flash Eurobarometer survey on the Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Young people was carried out during September 2008. The first results of this work are due imminently.

Emotional Well-being and behaviour has been tested extensively and the results indicate that the proportion of children and adolescents showing signs of mental health problems varied across countries, demographic and socioeconomic subgroups, and according to the presence of risk and protective factors.

The objective of this project is to obtain more data about the mental health and well being of children and adolescents, which can complement existing health data, and consequently to acknowledge the mental and psychological well-being of children and young people in the monitoring of population health.

For more information, and the results when available, visit:

<http://www.supportproject.eu/news/policynews/children-education-and-young-people/flash--eurobarometer.htm>

Source: SUPPORT Project

The Social Economy in the European Union

This document is a summary of the report drawn up for the European Economic and Social Committee by CIRIEC (International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy), which consists of a conceptual and comparative study of the situation of the Social Economy (SE) in the European Union.

The legal nature of social economy organisations differs from one Member State to the next, but they are inspired by common values such as solidarity, social cohesion, social responsibility, freedom of membership, democratic management, participation and autonomy. The day-to-day operation of these enterprises proves that it is possible to reconcile the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

To download the summary (in all EU languages):
http://eesc.europa.eu/groups/3/index_en.asp?id=1405GR03EN

Bipolar disorder: the patients' perspective - HSCNews International

The first half of HSCNews International, issue 44-45, August-September 2008, contains a report on the results of a large survey of people with bipolar disorder and their physicians. The second half of the issue continues with an analysis of the patient advocacy movement.

For more information: visit <http://www.patient-view.com/news.htm>

XIII. WEBSITES/ONLINE INFORMATION

EU Executive Agency for Health and Consumers has new website!

Check it out at <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/index.html>

FEANTSA launches European database on employment and homelessness

FEANTSA has launched a European database on employment and homelessness on its website. This online database provides easy access to relevant information resources, including national reports and research, as well as good practice examples of employment initiatives for people who are homeless from across the European Union. FEANTSA will continue updating this database and welcomes all additional contributions in all EU languages.

To access the database: <http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=868>

New website Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities research

The European Commission launched a new website on Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Research (SSH). The SSH programme implements EU research policies and activities that address changes facing the social, economic, political and cultural make-up of Europe. As such, the SSH area represents all sectors of European societies. This website is intended to be a dynamic one and will give news on all kinds of SSH activities.

To access the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences>

Launch of the website of ANED - The Academic Network of European Disability Experts

ANED, the Academic Network of European Disability Experts, was established by the European Commission in 2008 to provide academic and scientific support and advice for its non-discrimination policy. The network, which consists of national contacts and experts in 30 European countries, aims to promote the exchange of research and policy knowledge, and public access to relevant information about the situation of disabled people in the EU. The activities of the Network will in particular support the future development of the EU Disability Action Plan and the practical implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People in Europe. ANED has recently launched their website, with links to detailed information and resources in each country, and reports on key themes.

For more information: visit www.disability-europe.net

XIV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13-14 November 2008

FEANTSA European Conference "People who are homeless can be housed: An insight into successful practices from across Europe", Cardiff (UK)

For more information: contact Christine Lambert, Email Christine.lambert@feantsa.org, or visit the FEANTSA website, www.feantsa.org

24 November 2008

Course on recent developments and innovations in the Dutch health services, Utrecht (Netherlands)

For more information: contact person, Clarine Sies, Email C.P.Sies@umcutrecht.nl, Tel +31 88 756 88 82

NEW!! 28-29 November 2008

International conference, "25 Years Independent Living in Sweden", Stockholm (Sweden)

For more information: visit www.independentliving.org/25years2008/

NEW!! 1-2 December 2008

European Day of People with Disabilities Conference, "Acting locally for a society for all", Brussels (Belgium)

For more information: contact person, Paulette Matkovic Ramirez,
Email paulette.matkovic-ramirez@ec.europa.eu, Tel +32 2 298 82 15

21-23 January 2009

4th International Stigma Conference, "Together Against Stigma & Discrimination. Evidence for Action", London (UK)

For more information: visit the Conference website, <http://stigma.iop.kcl.ac.uk>

24-28 January 2009

17th European Congress of Psychiatry - AEP 2009, Lisbon (Portugal)

For more information: visit the Congress website,
<http://www2.kenes.com/epa/Pages/home.aspx>

NEW!! 4-7 March 2009

XVII World IFTA Congress, "Reconciling Differences: Can Family Therapy Help Heal the World?", Portorož (Slovenia)

For more information: visit www.paragon-conventions.com/ifta2009

16-19 April 2009

12th International Congress of IFPE, "Well being and mental disorder: epidemiological tools in the global village", Vienna (Austria)

For further information: visit the Congress dedicated website, <http://www.ifpe2009.at/>

NEW!! 27-28 April 2009

6th European Conference on Promoting Workplace Health, "HEALTHY WORK - HEALTHY LIFESTYLE - HEALTHY BUSINESS", Perugia (Italy)

For more information: contact the Conference Secretariat, Tel +39 0755 857 365, Email lorisegr@unipg.it

NEW!! 27-31 October 2009

XXV World Congress on Suicide Prevention, Montevideo (Uruguay)

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